

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1378
ANSWERED ON:26.11.2001
GRAIN BANKS
S. SAIDUZZAMAN

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government propose to decentralise grain storage by setting up of Grain Banks throughout the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether these storages are likely to include other non perishable foodgrains and vegetables like potato, onion and other coarse grains which are hardly available nowadays; and
- (d) if so, whether such banks are likely to be located in each of the District headquarters throughout the country with retail sales outlets to ensure fair price control mechanism for farmers and consumers and to curb the insatiable appetite for profits of the middlemen?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a) & (b): The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has been implementing a Central Sector Scheme of Grain Bank in Tribal Villages since 1996-97 to take preventive measures against deaths of children in selected remote and backward tribal area in 13 States identified by Central Planning Committee. Under the scheme, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs provide a one time grant towards purchase of food grains of locally preferred variety @ 1 QT per member family for the initial stock of the bank, setting up of storage facilities of traditional type and purchase of weight and scales. Member families can take loans of food grains in instalment during the period of scarcity and can repay it with nominal interest at the time of the next successful harvest. The Grain Banks are managed by Working Committees elected by beneficiaries themselves. All tribal families in the concerned village as well as interested Scheduled Caste families living below the poverty line can be members of a particular Grain Bank under the scheme. The funds are released by the Ministry to the State Governments through Tribal Co- operative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED), which is the channelising agency under the scheme.

(c) & (d): Recently, the Standing Committee of Union Ministers and Chief Minister on Food Management and Agriculture Export has recommended to expand the Village Grain Bank Scheme of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs with some modifications in all those endemic prone and migration prone areas with the concentration of tribal population and also in other tribal areas in the first phase. It has also been proposed to expand the Scheme in non-tribal areas, if, need be at a later stage.

The revised Scheme is aimed at covering 1.14 lakh tribal villages throughout the country in first phase with an estimated cost of Rs.1066.00 crores. The cash component under the Scheme is Rs.66.00 crores to be disbursed to the States for storage bins, expenditure on lifting of food grains etc. under the scheme. The food grains are to be supplied to the States on their demand through the FCI and the Ministry of Tribal Affairs will reimburse the amount to the FCI. The revised Scheme is yet to be approved by Government.